Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new section after the title at page 1, as follows:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

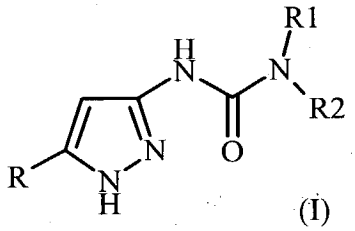
This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371 as a national phase application of International Patent Application No. PCT/US00/17878, filed August 11, 2000, and published in English, which is based on priority U.S. Patent Application 09/372,833, filed August 12, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,387,900 B1, issued May 14, 2002. The present application is also a division of U.S. Patent Application 09/372,833, filed August 12, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,387,900 B1, issued May 14, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following amended paragraph:

R is a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, which is optionally substituted with a straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl group, or is a C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl group, which is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, carboxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylalkylamino, aminocarbonylalkylamino, N-alkyl-N-carbonylamino, N-cycloalkyl-N-alkylaminoalkyl, aminoalkyl, aminocarbonyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylthio, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulphonyl, alkylsulphonylamino, aminosulphonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylsulphonyl, arylamino, arylcarbonyl, N-alkyl-piperazinyl, 4-morpholinyl, perfluorinated C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkynyl, C_2-C_4 aminoalkynyl or C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkynyl substituents;

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention also provides a 3-ureido-pyrazole derivative represented by formula (I):



(I)

where

R is a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group, which is optionally substituted with a straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl group, or is a C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl group, which is optionally

substituted with one or more hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, carboxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonylalkylamino, aminocarbonylalkylamino, N-alkyl-N-carbonylamino, N-cycloalkyl-N-alkylaminoalkyl, aminoalkyl, aminocarbonyl, alkyl,

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 18-22 (counting the structural equation as one line, namely line 12), with the following amended paragraph:

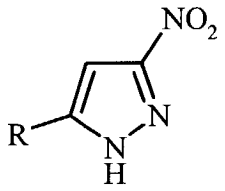
As used herein and unless otherwise indicated, the terms alkyl and alkoxy include C_1-C_6 alkyl and C_1-C_6 alkoxy groups. The term straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_1-C_6 alkoxy group includes a group selected from, methyl, ethyl, ~~npropyl~~n-propyl[[.]], isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tertbutyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy and the like.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 3-4 (counting the structure of formula IV as one line, namely, line 1), with the following amended paragraph:

b) selectively hydrolyzing a compound of formula (IV) in a basic medium thus obtaining a compound of formula (I);[[:]] or, alternatively,

Please replace the last paragraph at page 17 to read as follows:

~~(b)~~(c) oxidizing a compound of formula (II) thus obtaining a compound of formula (XI)

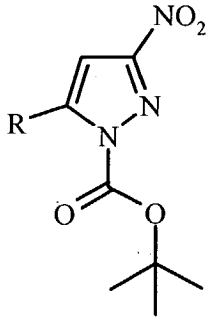


(XI)

where R is as described above;

Please replace the first paragraph at page 18 with the following amended paragraph:

~~(c)~~(d) reacting a compound of formula (XI) with terbutoxycarbonyl anhydride (Boc_2O) thus obtaining a compound of formula (XII):



(XII)

where R is as described above;

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, lines 5-8, with the following amended paragraph:

The reaction of a compound of formula (II) to give a compound of formula (XI) may be carried out with ~~oxone~~OXONE® (potassium peroxymonosulfate) or another oxidizing agent such as hydrogen peroxide in a suitable solvent such as a mixture of water-acetone at a temperature ranging from 0°C to room temperature.

Please replace the paragraph at p. 31, lines 1-8 with the following amended paragraph:

To a solution of 2.7 g of sodium hydrate in 454 ml of water 7.1 g (0.058 mol) of 3-cyclopropyl-5-amino-1H-pyrazole and 46.5 g of sodium hydrogenocarbonate were added at 0°C. After 10 minutes a solution of 337 ml of acetone in 221 ml of water and a solution of 130 g (0.21 mol) of ~~oxone~~ OXONE® in 580 ml of water were contemporarly dropped under vigorous stirring. After 4 hours at the same temperature the reaction is quenched with a saturated solution of sodium sulfite and extracted with ethylacetate. The organic layer was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness to give 4.6 g (52% yield) of the title compound.